

FORM B – BUILDING

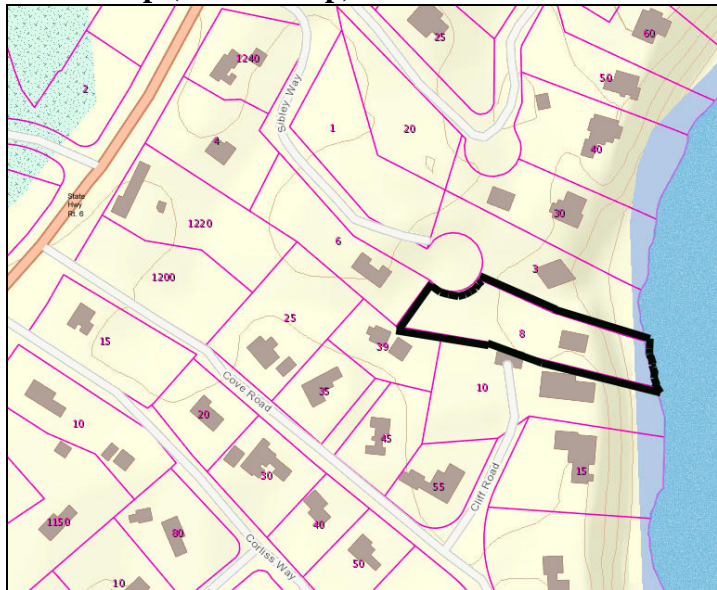
MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
MASSACHUSETTS ARCHIVES BUILDING
220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Photograph



View from west.

Locus Map (north at top)



Recorded by: Larson Fisher Associates with Kathryn Grover

Organization: Eastham Historical Commission

Date: April 2013

Assessor's Number USGS Quad Area(s) Form Number

18-51H

ORLEANS

EAS.617

Town/City: Town of Eastham

Place: (*neighborhood or village*): South Eastham

Address: 8 Sibley Way

Historic Name: Edmund L. & Annie Knowles Cottage

Uses: Present: single-family residence

Original: single-family residence

Date of Construction: ca. 1905

Source: deeds, tax records

Style/Form: undetermined

Architect/Builder: unknown

Exterior Material:

Foundation: concrete block & stone (parged)

Wall/Trim: wood shingle/wood trim

Roof: asphalt shingles

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures: small shed

Major Alterations (*with dates*): none

Condition: good

Moved: no ☒ yes ☐ **Date:**

Acreage: 0.65 acre

Setting: The subject property is located at the east end of the cul-de-sac, Sibley Way. The geography of the site includes a small bluff that runs along the shore of Town Cove. It is hemmed in on either side by much larger year-round single family dwellings, while smaller cottages are located to the west.

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

EASTHAM

8 SIBLEY WAY

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220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s) Form No.

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☐ Recommended for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION:

This simple one-story cottage, perched on a small bluff overlooking Town Cove retains its original historic character, which is largely defined by its front gable roof that flares out on both sides (north and south). It connects with the roof over the full width porch on the east water side of the house in a hipped manner. The "front" of this dwelling actually faces away from the public, land-side approach and toward the water. The gable end that faces west is three-bays wide and has a small basement access door. The north side facade has only two bays, suggesting a very simple interior plan. The windows are six-over-six double hung sash, which are probably replacements that replicate the originals. An attic window on the west facade is a four-light barn sash, but the attic window on the east side has been replaced with a fixed pane. (No detailed building permit information was available for this property.) The 2003 Assessor's photograph shows the building newly clad with wood shingles and it may be that the porch was rebuilt around that time, as well as triple sliding glass doors and glass entrance door installed on the east facade.¹ Skylights have been installed on the south side and flared portion of the roof (date unknown).

The property includes an exterior wood staircase on the east side of the house to allow easy access to the shoreline. There is also a small wood frame, gable-roofed shed located to the southwest of the house, which could well be as old as the house.

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE

The cottage at 8 Sibley Way was probably built for Edmund L. Knowles, an Eastham native and the son of Edmund F. and Pamela G. Smith Knowles. He was born in 1865. By the age of fourteen Knowles was working as a fisherman and living in his parents' household on State Highway. At some point after that date Edmund L. Knowles moved to Fall River, Massachusetts, where he worked as a teamster, and on March 1, 1899, he married Anne Ferguson, a cotton mill worker who had emigrated from England in July 1897. She was born in the English town of Carlisle and was working as a hat trimmer at the time of her passage.

Perhaps in anticipation of his marriage, in October 1898 Edmund Knowles bought four parcels from William Wareham (1836-1905), a master mariner who had been born in Yarmouth. Wareham settled in Eastham, at least for a time after his marriage to Eastham native Alice Doane. He was living in Provincetown in the 1880s and died there in 1905. One of the four Eastham parcels Wareham sold to Knowles was his four-acre homestead property, which he had bought from Silas Smart in 1882 and which included the mid-nineteenth-century house now numbered 1240 State Highway (EAS.18). The other three parcels were evidently undeveloped and together included 24 acres.²

In January 1899, two months before their marriage, Knowles deeded the Wareham homestead and an adjacent 7-acre tract to Anne Ferguson.³ The 1900 census shows the couple in a household with farm laborer William E. Dill in this neighborhood, where many members of his family also lived. Tax records for 1902 do not list an Edmund L. Knowles, but his real property was perhaps that shown under the name Edmund M. Knowles; it included a dwelling worth \$700, a barn worth \$250, hen houses, an asparagus packing house, outbuildings, livestock, and nearly 46 acres in various parcels. This listing indicates that the cottage at 8 Sibley Way had probably not been built by 1902—the single dwelling must have been 1240 State Highway. The next available tax commitment book, from 1926, shows Knowles as a resident of Orleans and owner of the dwelling house at 1725, a barn and shed, a garage, a cottage valued at \$700, a poultry house, and a water system. The homestead lot was six acres, while the cottage was on its own one-acre lot.

By November 1930 Edmund L. Knowles had died and his widow, Anne, sold the property to Carrie L. Brown Sibley of Peaks Island, Maine.⁴ Born in Charlton, Massachusetts, Sibley was the wife of electrical engineer Chiron J. Sibley, whom she married in Worcester in 1890. Chiron Sibley had died by 1920, when the Worcester census shows Carrie Sibley as a widow living with her son George Waterville Sibley, also an engineer, George's wife Anna, and another son, Ralph. By 1929 George W. Sibley had moved his family to Chatham and was working as a marine engineer; the 1930 Chatham census documents that his mother Carrie had moved there with the family.

In 1934 Carrie Sibley sold the Wareham homestead property, still including what is now 8 Sibley Way, to her son George. The deed specifies that she have a right-of-way across the parcel, which suggests that she was living in the Sibley Way cottage. By the mid-1930s Carrie Sibley was shown as a resident of both Worcester and Peaks Island; the 1940 census shows her in Worcester with her son Ralph, who worked on an oil tanker.

¹ Town of Eastham Assessor's records note that a building permit issued Oct. 5, 2001, was for "misc." work and another dated May 6, 1999, was for interior remodeling.

² Silas H. Smart to William Wareham, Provincetown, 25 September 1882, Barnstable County Registry of Deeds (BCD) 151:243; William Wareham to Edmund L. Knowles, 20 October 1898, BCD 235:47.

³ Edmund L. Knowles, Fall River, to Anne Ferguson, 9 January 1899, BCD 238:61

⁴ Annie F. Knowles, Orleans, to Carrie L. Sibley, Peaks Island ME, 15 November 1930, BCD 479:233.

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220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s) Form No.

EAS.617

Tax records for 1937 show George Sibley as the owner of the house at 1240 State Highway, the 8 Sibley Way cottage, a barn, garage, poultry house, and about 10 acres of land. The 1940 census lists him and his wife with their three children in the 1240 State Highway house, and his draft registration card shows him as employed by Mystic Steamship Company of Boston. For some reason tax records for 1947 show Carrie Sibley as owner of both properties and their associate acreage, though records for 1954 place ownership of the same parcel in George's name.

In November 1969 George Sibley transferred title to the two properties to his son and namesake, then living in Framingham, and his married daughter Barbara Ann Weber. In 1983 the Sibley siblings subdivided the Wareham homestead, placing 1240 State Highway and 8 Sibley Way in separate parcels. In the same year Barbara Sibley Weber and her husband Nathan became sole owners of the property except for "the existing cottage and garage," to which George Sibley and Barbara together retained title. Barbara Weber owned 8 Sibley Way until 1998, when she sold it to current owners Laura Saleem-Brodsky and Wendy Shotsky of Albany, New York.⁵

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PHOTOGRAPHS

(credit Larson Fisher Associates, 2012-2013 unless otherwise noted)

⁵ George W. Sibley to George W. Sibley Jr., Framingham, and Barbara Ann Weber, 24 November 1969, BCD 1456:930; George W. Sibley Jr. and Barbara Ann Weber to Nathan M. and Barbara Ann Weber, 8 September 1983, BCD 3856:297; Barbara Ann Weber, 10 Cranberry Way, to Barbara A. Weber, trustee BSC Realty Trust, 14 November 1994, BCD 9445:80; Barbara A. Weber, trustee BSC Realty Trust, to Laura Saleem-Brodsky and Wendy Shotsky, Albany NY, 2 June 1998, BCD 11474:165. See also "Plan of Land in Eastham, Mass. Prepared for George W. Sibley Jr. and Barbara Ann Weber," 24 June 1983, BCP 375:58.

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View from east (facade facing Town Cove).

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	EAS.617
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View from northwest.



View from north.



View from west toward Town Cove.



Shed, view from north.